



Sustainability and Environmental
Management Section

Memo

To: Honorable Mayor and City Council

Through: Kevin Burke, City Manager
Ben Fisk, Deputy City Manager
Eric Solberg, Public Works Director
Rebecca Sayers, Sustainability and Environmental Manager

From: Nicole Woodman, Sustainability Manager

Date: 6/5/2009

Re: Expression of support for a resolution to pass meaningful climate protection legislation.

Under Resolution 2006-59, U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement, the City of Flagstaff has voluntarily committed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in Flagstaff. Under the agreement, the City of Flagstaff agreed to:

- Strive to meet or beat the Kyoto Protocol targets in their own communities, through actions ranging from anti-sprawl land-use policies to urban forest restoration projects to public information campaigns;
- Urge their state governments, and the federal government, to enact policies and programs to meet or beat the greenhouse gas emission reduction target suggested for the United States in the Kyoto Protocol -- 7% reduction from 1990 levels by 2012; and
- Urge the U.S. Congress to pass the bipartisan greenhouse gas reduction legislation, which would establish a national emission trading system

In support of these efforts, the City of Seattle, under Mayor Greg Nickels' direction, has drafted a resolution calling on Congress to pass meaningful climate protection legislation that provides more resource to local government. The resolution will be presented at the U.S. Conference of Mayors meeting next week. Mayor Wynn from Austin, who chairs the Energy Committee, has agreed to co-sponsor this legislation.

Key points in the resolution include:

- Strong federal climate policy will position this country to be competitive in the global economy, drive investment in new, clean energy solutions and create new, local jobs, aiding in our national economic recovery
- Federal policy must enable and provide resources for local action that is critical to global greenhouse gas reductions
- In May 2009, the US House of Representatives Energy and Commerce Committee passed the American Clean Energy Securities Act of 2009 (ACES Act).
- The US Conference of Mayors urges Congress to amend the ACES Act in consideration of the critical role that cities must continue to play in advancing solutions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapting and responding to changing global climate conditions to include:
 - Support for enforcement
 - Eliminate federal and state barriers to local financing programs that use property tax mechanisms to finance efficiency upgrades
 - Allocate federal transportation dollars directly to local governments to support increase investment in transit as well as bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure
 - Direct allocation of credit or auction revenues to cities for investment in climate mitigation

If City Council approves the Mayor can sign in support of the attached resolution and thereby adhere to the City's commitment to Resolution 2006-59.

Resolution

Submitted by:

Mayor Sara Presler,
City of Flagstaff

Calling on Congress to Pass Meaningful Climate Protection Legislation

1. **WHEREAS**, Cities house more than half of the world's population and are responsible for more than 80% of greenhouse gas emissions; and
2. **WHEREAS**, mayors have the unique opportunity and significant responsibility to implement programs that result in real emissions reductions; and
3. **WHEREAS**, cities are also the first responders to the impacts of climate change as increases in temperature, changes in precipitation patterns and storm events, and sea level rise change the way we do business; and
4. **WHEREAS**, strong federal climate policy will position this country to be competitive in the global economy, drive investment in new, clean energy solutions and create new, local jobs, aiding in our national economic recovery; and
5. **WHEREAS**, federal policy must also enable and provide resources for local action that is critical to global greenhouse gas reductions; and
6. **WHEREAS**, the U.S. Conference of Mayors has established policy on city priorities for the design of a federal cap and trade system to regulate national greenhouse gas emissions, including:
 - a. Setting an economy-wide cap on greenhouse gas emissions that results in real reductions in greenhouse gas emissions consistent with the scientific consensus, or 80 percent reduction below 1990 levels by 2050;
 - b. Avoiding "safety valve" provisions, and instead integrate alternative flexibility measures to help control costs, such as the use of offsets;

- ~~a-c.~~ Incorporating an accelerated schedule toward full auctioning of emission allowances;
 - ~~a-d.~~ Distributing revenues generated by a cap and trade program to recognize the important role that local governments play in climate protection.
- 7. **WHEREAS**, in May 2009, the US House of Representatives Energy and Commerce Committee passed the American Clean Energy Security Act of 2009 (ACES Act); and
- 8. **WHEREAS**, the ACES Act establishes the Global Warming Pollution Reduction Program, including the creation of an economy-wide cap and trade system; and
- 9. **WHEREAS**, the ACES Act does incorporate the following key elements of a cap and trade program, which make progress toward meeting city priorities:
 - a. Pollution caps to reduce total GHG emissions 83 percent below 2005 levels by 2050;
 - ~~a-b.~~ Use of offsets as a cost containment measure;
 - ~~a-c.~~ Increasing percentage of allowances to be auctioned over time; and
 - ~~a-d.~~ Considerable provisions for consumer protection
- 10. **WHEREAS**, the ACES Act includes additional key provisions that will enable US cities to more effectively develop and implement local climate protection initiatives, including:
 - a. New energy efficiency standards (codes) for buildings, appliances and industry;
 - ~~a-b.~~ Building energy performance labeling program to address energy efficiency potential in existing buildings;
- 11. **WHEREAS**, the ACES Act Global Warming Pollution Reduction Program does not currently recognize the key role that local governments play in implementing climate solutions through direct allocation of credits or auction revenues,
- 12. **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the US Conference of Mayors calls upon the United States Congress to pass the American Clean Energy Security Act of 2009 in advance of the United Nations Climate Change

Conference 15th Conference of Parties meeting in
Copenhagen in December 2009;

13. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the US Conference of Mayors urges Congress to amend the ACES Act in consideration of the critical role that cities must continue to play in advancing solutions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapting and responding to changing global climate conditions, to include:
- a. Support for enforcement as well as adoption of local energy and land use codes;
 - ~~a-b.~~ Eliminate federal and state barriers to local financing programs that use property tax mechanisms to finance efficiency upgrades;
 - ~~a-c.~~ Allocate federal transportation dollars directly local governments to support increased investment in transit as well as bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure;
 - d. Direct allocation of credits or auction revenues to cities for investment in climate mitigation as well as adaption initiatives, as well as consumer protection and workforce development programs.